1 **COMPRESSED DATA TRANSMISSION OVER**

2 **A PLURALITY OF DATA PATHS**

3

4 **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

5 A method and apparatus for data transmission transmits both compressed and

6 noncompressed data over each of a plurality of transmission paths. A data identification

7 pattern is used to request a type of data from a memory having a plurality of data types stored

8 within it. A handshaking control module is provided to select the correct type of data from

9 the memory and place it on the output of the memory. The requested data type is then

10 transmitted to a data decompression module via an interface. The data transmission can

11 occur on any one of a plurality of data transmission paths when the data being transmitted

12 is either Linework or Linework control data. When the data decompression module receives

13 the data, it is then routed to any one of a plurality of data decompression systems based upon

14 the results of the evaluation of the data identification pattern. The routing of the received

15 data is wholly dependent upon the data identification pattern and independent of which

16 transmission path the data was received on.